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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01315 111034Z

13 10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /064 W
---------- 023392
O 110955Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8560
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1315

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. IT IS NICE TO SEE NEWSPAPERS MAKING BIG POINT
OF HEAVY SNOWFALL IN LEBANON RATHER THAN FALL OF MORE
EXPLOSIVE OBJECTS. ISOLATED INCIDENTS CONTINUE,
INCLUDING KIDNAPPINGS AND ROBBERIES, BUT ON VERY
SMALL SCALE. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE GOOD REPORTS
THAT MILITIAS ON BOTH SIDES ARE CONTINUING TO RE-ARM
THEMSELVES AGAINST FUTURE CONTINGENCIES. MEANWHILE,
INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TELL US THEY ARE GETTING
BACK SOME OF THEIR LOST VEHICLES BUT HAVE HAD LESS
LUCK IN RECOVERING ARMS.

2 SOME SORT OF DOCUMENT HAS FALLEN INTO PRESS HANDS
LIIING LONG SERIES OF POINTS WHICH PURPORT TO BE NEW
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POLITICAL AGREEMENT. THESE POINTS INCLUDE FOR THE

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FIRST TIME SPECIFIC CONTROL OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION. AT SAME TIME FOREIGN CORRESPONDANTS HERE HAVE BEEN CALLED IN BY SURETE GENERALE AND READ A LECTURE ON NEED
TO BE RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR REPORTING.
THIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE DOCUMENT MAY HAVE SYRIAN ORIGINS, PERHAPS AS AN EARLIER DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. POINTS OF AGREEMENT ITSELF WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED IN SOME WAY AT CABINET MEETING TODAY,X BUT WE HAVE IT ON PRETTY GOOD AUTHORITY THAT NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT IS IMMEINENT. JUMBLATT AND MUFTI (AS WELL AS NAJJADE PARTY'S ADNAN HAKIM) HAVE JOINED SAEB SALAM IN PUBLIC STANCE AGAINST GUARANTEE OF MARONITE PRESIDENT BEING IN WRITING. THIS AND OTHER RELATIVELY MINOR POINTS PROBABLY HAVE TO BE THRASHED OUT BEFORE AGREEMENT IS CONSIDERED AGREED.

4. SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES ON HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE WERE PREVENTED BY SNOW FROM COMING TO MEETING LAST NIGHT. MEETING RE-SCHEDULED FOR THIS MORNING. WE ARE TOLD LEFT WING REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONTINUING THEIR REPRESENTATIONS FOR INCLUSION ON MILITARY COMMITTEE AS PARALLEL TO INCLUSION OF PHALANGE-NLP REPRESENATIVES IN SOME AREAS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION COMPOSITION OF HIGHER OR SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES WILL BE CHANGED.

5. RAYMOND EDDE HAS FINALLY RETURNED FROM HIS TRAVELS ABROAD, BRINGING WITH HIM TALES OF HIS OWN PROWESS INAFFECTING THE POLICIES OF UNITED STATES, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN AND ITALY. HE TAKES CREDIT FOR HELPING TO INSPIRE USG DECLARATION AGAINST LEBANESE PARTITION AND CONCLUDES IN HIS USUAL FASHION THAT LEBANESE EVENTS WERE AN ISRAELI PLOT. OF SUCH STUFF ARE LEADERS MADE OF.
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